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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/812,105	03/19/2001	Masahiko Igaki	P/2856-21	9666

7590 09/03/2004  
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EXAMINER

AZARIAN, SEYED H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/812,105

Applicant(s)

IGAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Seyed Azarian

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,7-14 and 21-24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6,15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT**

1. Applicant's amendment filed, 6/4/2004, has been entered and made of record.
2. Applicant's arguments with regards to claims 1-24 have been considered but they are not persuasive in view of the new grounds of rejection necessitated by applicant's amendment.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 15-17, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haruki et al (U.S. patent 4,632,252) in view of Law, Jr. et al (U.S. patent 6,509,976).

Regarding claim 1, Haruki discloses a postal information input apparatus in which when a postcode to be read by a reader of a postal matter sorting machine cannot be normally read, a correct postcode is reentered manually from an input device, comprising (column 2, lines 4-24, the coding device displays the rejected image on display device so that the operator can enter correct data such as the correct zip code);

a display which indicates that postal information input apparatus has receives a data to be input from said postal matter sorting machine, (Fig. 3, column 3, lines 42 through column 4, line 7, CRT display the rejected image and a key board for inputting the correct zip codes by operator).

However Haruki is silent about "number of unprocessed mail items received and assigned". On the other hand Law, Jr. (column 6, lines 48-65, Fig. 7-11, if block determines it is time to start the process the program goes to the input of block. Block locates the next unprocessed unique meter mail piece number record from data base and records stored in database).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made, to modify Haruki invention according to the teaching of Law, Jr. because it provides a system for maintaining a record of the postage that has been applied to a mail piece and the characteristics of the mail piece and the contents of the mail piece, which can easily be implemented in an mail sorting device.

Regarding claim 4, Haruki discloses a postal information input apparatus, wherein said first display is an icon display (column 3, lines 8-24, scanning postal mail to read the zip code or address printed on the mail).

Regarding claim 6, Haruki discloses a postal information input apparatus, wherein a display deletion means for deleting said display, when said data to be input corresponding to said display is input within a predetermined time, is provided (Fig. 7, column 6, line 61 through column 7, line 6, refer to deleting step, also column 6, line 61

through column 7, line 6, rejected data left in the file unit, a predetermined time larger than any expected actual time is written).

Regarding claim 15, Haruki discloses a data display method for prompting an operator of a postal information input apparatus to supply a postal code unrecognized by a postal matter sorting machine, comprising, sending information associated with a rejected mail item whose postal code could not be recognized by the postal matter sorting machine to a postal information input apparatus (column 3, line 52 through column 4, line 7, Fig. 3B when mail is rejected by the recognition unit (unrecognized), the rejected data includes not only reading time and mail serial number, but also unrecognized image data, At the same time rejected data is supplied to distributor. Upon receiving the rejected data for displaying the rejected image for inputting the correct zip code);

Display a first indication that information associated with the reject mail item has been received by the input apparatus and requires operator input, second indication of the number of rejected mail item associated with the information received by the input apparatus requiring operator input (column 4, lines 1-19, when the operator watches the rejected image on the CRT display and inputs the correct zip code);

Display some or all of the information received on the input apparatus display, and receiving operator input of the correct postcode based on the information displayed (column 4, lines 49-62).

Regarding claim 16, Haruki discloses the method of claim 15, further comprising, deleting the first indication after operator input has been received (column 5, lines 31-47, deleting rejected data).

Regarding claim 17, Haruki discloses the method of claim 15, further comprising, updating the second indication after operator input has been received (column 5, line 65 through column 6, line 9, updating the control table).

### Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 18-20 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### Allowable claims

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The claims 2 representative of claims 7-12 and 21 are allowable due to the "first display which indicate that said postal information input apparatus has received data to be input from postal matter sorting machine, and second display which indicates that if said data to be input "cannot be input within a predetermined time, said predetermined time has passed".

The closest prior art of record (Haruki) teaches for a mail sorting system is provided which includes a plurality of mail sorters and coding devices. But neither teach or suggest that "if data to be input cannot be input within a predetermined time, said predetermined time has passed.

These key features in combination with the other features of the claimed invention are neither taught nor suggested by the art of record.

Claims 2-3, 5, 7-14 and 21-24 are allowable.

### **Conclusion**

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

### **Contact Information**

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Seyed Azarian whose telephone number is (703) 306-

5907. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta, can be reached at (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

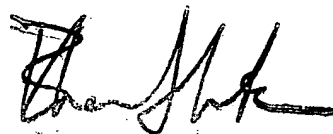
Status information about the PAIR system, see [http:// pair-direct.uspto.gov](http://pair-direct.uspto.gov). Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Seyed Azarian

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 2625

August 18, 2004



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